

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 104639

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 104639

EXDIS TOSEC 803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO CENTO MEETING

FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TEXT OF MESSAGE ACTING SECRETARY
WOULD READ AT OPENING SESSION OF CENTO ON TUESDAY, MAY 21:

BEGIN QUOTE: SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASKED ME TO READ THIS
MESSAGE TO YOU:

IT IS WITH GREAT REGRET THAT I FIND I CANNOT BE WITH YOU
FOR THIS SESSION OF THE CENTO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. IT
WAS AN OCCASION I HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO BECAUSE IT
WOULD HAVE BEEN MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH I CANNOT BE WITH YOU IN
PERSON, I SHOULD LIKE TO ASSURE OUR FRIENDS FROM IRAN,
PAKISTAN, TURKEY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF MY PERSONAL
SUPPORT FOR CENTO.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 104639

OF THE BONDS WHICH LINK US IN FRIENDSHIP, NONE IS STRONGER THAN OUR HOPES FOR PEACE. NO AREA OF THE WORLD HAS POSED A GREATER THREAT TO THAT PEACE THAN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE ELIMINATION OF CONFLICT IN THAT TROUBLED AREA IS AN END WE ALL SEEK AND AN ACHIEVEMENT WHOSE FRUITS WE WOULD ALL SHARE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS SOUGHT TO ASSIST THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO TAKE THE FIRST IMPORTANT STEPS ON THE PATH TO PEACE. THE ATTAINMENT OF THAT OBJECTIVE MAY NOW BE WITHIN REACH, AND PRESIDENT NIXON HAS THEREFORE DECIDED THAT I SHOULD REMAIN IN THE AREA IN THE HOPE THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP TRANSFORM PROSPECT INTO REALITY. I KNOW THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MY COLLEAGUES IN CENTO WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I AM NOT ABLE TO BE WITH THEM IN WASHINGTON.

YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING. END
QUOTE. RUSH

SECRET

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